

September 30, 2005

Illinois Honored for "Greening" its Motor Vehicle Fleet

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services today received the 2005 Honda Environmental Leadership Award from the National Conference of State Fleet Administrators.

The NCSFA honor recognizes the State of Illinois' record use of cleaner-burning alternative fuels such as Biodiesel (made from soybeans) and E-85 (consisting of 85% corn-based ethanol) in its motor vehicle fleet. In the past three years, CMS has built the largest E-85 passenger fleet in Illinois, the 18th largest "flexible fuel vehicle" fleet in the country and also helped increase the number of gas stations selling E-85 fuel statewide.

To support Illinois agriculture and expand renewable energy, Governor Rod Blagojevich signed an Executive Order in 2003 to expand the use of biofuels and flexible fuel vehicles in the state's motor vehicle fleet. Since then, more than 75% of the passenger fleet vehicles Illinois has purchased have been flexible fueled vehicles (FFVs). Today, the 1,950 FFVs in the state fleet represent about 16% of the total fleet.

Also, Executive Order 7, signed on April 12, 2004, directed State agencies and employees to use biofuels whenever possible and that state fleet and purchasing experts prioritize making FFV's and biofuels readily available. The Governor's action has helped spur new markets for the fuels as exhibited by the rapid spread of E-85 fueling stations across the state, to more than 100.

The Honda Award was presented to Barbara Bonansinga, Acting Manager of the CMS Division of Vehicles, by NCSFA President Scott Madsen, at the NCSFA Conference and Trade Show. Winners are chosen for their sustained contributions to the advancement and use of alternative fuels.

